

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 3473. An act to amend the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to authorize advances from Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 111-148, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Commission on Key National Indicators:

Dr. Wade F. Horn of Maryland (for a term of 3 years); and

Dr. Nichols N. Eberstadt of the District of Columbia (for a term of 2 years).

NOTIFICATION OF TERMINATION OF SUSPENSIONS WITH RESPECT TO ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PERMANENT MUNITIONS EXPORT LICENSES FOR EXPORTS TO CHINA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 111-120)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by section 902(b)(2) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1990 and 1991 (Public Law 101-246) (the “Act”), and as President of the United States, I hereby report to the Congress that it is in the national interest of the United States to terminate the suspensions under section 902(a)(3) of the Act with respect to the issuance of permanent munitions export licenses for exports to the People’s Republic of China insofar as such restrictions pertain to the LightScanner® 32 System used for gene mutation genotyping for individualized cancer treatment. License requirements remain in place for these exports and require review on a case-by-case basis by the United States Government.

BARACK OBAMA.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 9, 2010.

THE ISRAEL BLOCKADE AND THE FLOTILLA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY.)

Mrs. LOWEY. I thank the gentleman. I’m just going to complete my statement, and I appreciate your generosity.

The administration focused today on humanitarian and development assistance to strengthen the Palestinian Authority so it can serve as a viable partner in peace to Israel. But Abu Mazen must make clear to all the Palestinian people that their security and prosperous future—and we’ve seen an 11 percent growth in the West Bank—depends on rejecting Hamas, recognizing Israel, and working with the international community and Israel to achieve a two-state solution.

Despite the current tense environment, some positive steps have been taken that will improve Israel’s security as well as bolster U.S. national security interests. Iran continues to be an existential threat to Israel, the region, and the world. I am pleased today’s agreement by the U.N. Security Council to impose multilateral sanctions on Iran will hold the regime accountable for its reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons, and I look forward to Congress finalizing strong bilateral sanctions and urge European partners and other responsible countries to do the same.

We must continue to strongly support the U.S.-Israeli partnership which provides invaluable benefits to both of our countries’ national securities.

Mr. AKIN. I yield to my good friend from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman, and I will be brief. I rise in support of everything that my colleagues have said.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is a special relationship, and it’s a relationship that needs to be strengthened. The United States is Israel’s only true friend. In fact, when you look at the United Nations or the so-called Human Rights Council in the United Nations, it’s really a kangaroo court stacked up against Israel. No wonder Israel doesn’t accept what the so-called “international body” says about them, because they can never do anything right. They’re always condemned no matter what they try, no matter what they do.

My colleagues have pointed out that Israel, like every other sovereign nation, has the right to defend itself, that Israel has at least twice seized large caches of arms aboard Iranian ships bound for Hamas and Hezbollah, and a blockade is an appropriate security measure when employed in the face of hostility such as that directed by Hamas against Israel.

Hamas doesn’t recognize Israel’s right to exist, has vowed to destroy Israel, won’t abide by any agreements that have been signed by Israel and the previous Palestinian governments, and so Israel has to make sure that terrorist attacks don’t come from Gaza into Israel as they have for such a long time. As my colleagues have pointed out, Israel has offered to inspect the flotillas and let all the humanitarian

aid on the flotillas go to Gaza, but these people on the flotilla were obviously not interested in delivering humanitarian aid. They were interested in provoking a violent reaction from Israel.

I just want to stand in support of the U.S.-Israel relationship, a strong relationship. Israel is our best friend and ally in the Middle East. Hopefully, soon there will be a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, two states side by side living in peace and harmony, a Palestinian state and an Israeli Jewish state. That is something that we all strive to work for.

I want to thank Mr. WEINER for organizing this. I want to thank Mr. HOYER, our majority leader, for always being a stalwart. I want to thank Mr. AKIN for giving us the opportunity to speak. When it comes to Israel, this Congress is united with strong bipartisan support, and we’re going to keep it that way.

Thank you.

Mr. AKIN. I thank the gentleman. I think you’re articulate, and I think that that’s accurate to say: there is a good bipartisan sentiment that when a small nation is trying to defend itself, we have always stood for people.

The basic principle of people being allowed to be free and have some self-determination as to how they’re going to rule their own country and be free from the fear of terrorists, that’s something that Americans can really agree on. I appreciate you taking time on that subject, and also my good friend from New York taking the time to organize the hour. Very good job. Thank you.

Mr. WEINER. If the gentleman would briefly yield, I, too, want to add my thanks to you. I don’t know if they have C-SPAN in Israel, but sometimes it’s easy in that little country to feel beset on all sides. We share the same common sense that they do, that they’re victims of terror, and I want to thank you.

We disagree on a lot in this place—and you’re going to spend the next hour or so pointing out some of those things—but there are some things that have broad bipartisan support, and the support of Israel is one of those things, and I want to thank you for being at the forefront of that.

Mr. AKIN. Well, thank you very much, gentleman. And thank you for the leadership you’ve shown tonight.

DEMOCRAT’S MANAGEMENT OF THE ECONOMY

Mr. AKIN. I would now change gears here and get on to another subject.

We’re dealing with some weighty topics tonight; the previous was of course international relations, the other is closer to home, and it’s really the question of the economy: the Democrats’ management of the economy, what should be done with the economy, how does that affect jobs and how does that affect all of our lives. I guess it sounds like kind of a boring subject in some ways; but on the other hand, it so much influences and affects every single person in our country that I guess